

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-11 are in the application. Claims 3-11 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-2 are being examined. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryder, and rejected claim 2 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ryder in view of Rivard et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

According to claim 1, a running layer is galvanically applied to a bearing eye, and the running surface 5 is configured with groove-like recesses 6. Not the bearing eye 2, but rather the slide layer 4 has a profiled surface in the form of the groove-like recesses 6. Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that it is the coating includes the profiled surface, and not the bearing eye surface itself. According to claim 1, it is essential to the invention that the bearing eye surface 3 is machined with accurate fit, according to a circular cylinder, before the slide layer 4 is galvanically deposited to form the running surface 5 in a different thickness, in order to obtain a

slide layer 4 that is profiled in accordance with the final dimension of the running surface 5.

Ryder cannot anticipate claim 1, Ryder is aimed not at a profiled running surface, but rather a smooth running surface, shaped according to a circular cylinder, in that slide layers that have been applied are partially removed again, forming groove-like recesses, in order to obtain surface portions of the individual slide layers, distributed in the axial direction, as is clearly evident from the drawing.

It is true that it is indicated in Fig. 5 that the running layers can be applied to a bearing surface in the shape of a circular cylinder, in that a first layer having different thickness is applied (see page 2, second column, lines 29 to 35), but this does not fundamentally change the assessment of Ryder, because the ridges between the grooves of the layers that lie on top are machined off again, in order to obtain a smooth surface in the shape of a circular cylinder. Because of the subsequent machining of the galvanically deposited slide layers, the bearing eye in Ryder does not have to be machined to fit accurately. Such precise machining results in increased machining effort, which becomes useless if the running surface must subsequently be machined for accurate fit, as is the case in Ryder. It must

therefore be obvious to a person skilled in the art that no precise machining of the bearing surface according to a circular cylinder takes place, if one considers Fig. 5. Aside from the fact that Ryder does not describe a profiled running surface, Ryder can therefore also not make it obvious to machine the bearing eye surface with precise fit according to a circular cylinder, in order to then obtain a slide bearing having a profiled running surface, by precise galvanic deposition of the slide layer, without having to machine this running surface afterwards.

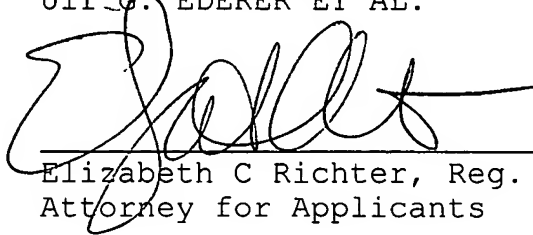
Since Ryder cannot anticipate claim 1, a combination of Ryder with Rivard et al. also cannot make the characteristics of claim 2 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 2 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 2 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of copending application no. 10/678,665, claims 1-4 of copending application no. 10/678,666 and claim 1 of copending application no. 10/678,668. Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer, disclaiming that portion of the term of the

patent issuing on the present application that would extend beyond the terms of any of the patents issuing on the above-cited applications. Applicants submit that there are no other related applications owned by the applicant that would be the subject of an additional double patenting rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Ulf G. EDERER ET AL.



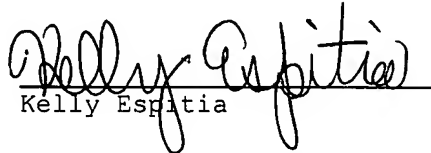
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